REMARKS

Claims 9, 12-13, 17-20, and 22-23 are amended. No claims are canceled, while claim 33 has been added. Claims 9-14, 17-23, and 33 are thus pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance for the subject applicaiton.

EXPECTATION THAT ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION MAINTAIN NON-FINALITY

For at least the reasons discussed below in regards to new claim 33 (under the section entitled "New Claim"), Applicant respectfully submits that any subsequent Office Action other than a Notice of Allowance should remain Non-Final. *See* 37 CFR §1.113, MPEP §706.07(a).

§103 REJECTIONS

Claims 9-11, 13-14, 17-19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Botz in view of Kao.

Claims 12, 20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Botz in view of Kao in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0139355 to Axel et al. (hereinafter, "Axel").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution and without conceding the propriety of the Office's rejections.

Claim 9, as amended, recites a method comprising (added language emphasized):

- receiving a credential from a user at an input device in communication with a local machine having ***a native operating system (OS)***, the local machine capable of being in

communication with a plurality of different input devices each configured to enable the user to log on with the ***native*** OS to access the local machine;

- translating the credential with one of a plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules for translating respectively different types of credentials into a common credential protocol, ***the common credential protocol being compatible with the native OS of the local machine***, and the plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules also enabling the user to log on with the ***native*** OS to access the local machine with each corresponding different input device that is in communication with local machine;
- ***communicating the translated credential having the common credential protocol through a credential provider Application Program Interface (API) to a logon user interface (UI) routine of the native OS, wherein the credential provider API is configured to interface with each of the plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules;***
- ***passing the translated credential having the common credential protocol to a logon routine of the native OS from the logon UI routine;***
- ***calling the logon routine*** for the ***native*** OS to authenticate the translated credential having the common credential protocol against a credential database; and
- logging the user on with the ***native*** OS to access the local machine when the authentication is successful.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Botz and Kao fails to teach or suggest Applicant's amended claim 9. For instance, and as discussed during the afore-mentioned interview, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination at least fails to teach or suggest the added language of Applicant's claim, emphasized above. During the interview, Applicant understood the Office to tentatively agree, although the Office also indicated that further analysis of the references and an updated search would be necessary. Applicant once again thanks the Office for its insight.

For at least these reasons, this claim stands allowable.

Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9 and, by virtue of this dependency, the above comments directed to claim 9 apply equally to these claims. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken together with those of claim 9, define methods not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another. Applicant notes that while Axel is also used in making a rejection of dependent claim 12, this reference also fails to teach the added language of independent claim 9, emphasized above.

Claim 17 recites a method comprising:

- receiving a credential from a user at an input device in communication with a local machine having a native operating system (OS), the local machine capable of being in communication with a plurality of different input devices, each capable of receiving a credential from the user to enable the user to log on to access the local machine with the native OS;
- translating the credential with a credential provider module that corresponds to the input device, wherein:
    - the credential provider module is one of a plurality of coexisting different said credential provider modules; and
    - each said credential provider module can perform a translation of a respectively different type of said credential received at a different said input device in communication with the local machine; and
    - each said translation of each said credential is in a common credential protocol, the common credential protocol being compatible with the native OS of the local machine;
- communicating the translated credential having the common credential protocol through a credential provider interface to a logon user interface (UI) routine of the native OS, wherein the credential provider interface is configured to interface with each of the plurality of coexisting different said credential provider modules;
- passing the translated credential having the common credential protocol to a logon routine of the native OS from the logon UI routine;
- authenticating the translated credential against a credential database with the logon routine of the native OS; and
- logging the user on to access the local machine with the native OS when the authentication is successful.

In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office uses reasoning similar to that used in regards to claim 9. Therefore, for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in regards to claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Botz and Kao fail teach or suggest independent claim 17. For instance, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination at least fails to teach or suggest the added elements of this claim. During the afore-mentioned interview, Applicant understood the Office to tentatively agree, although the Office also indicated that further analysis of the references and an updated search would be necessary. Applicant once again thanks the Office for its insight.

For at least these reasons, this claim stands allowable.

Claims 18-21 depend from claim 17 and, by virtue of this dependency, the above comments directed to claim 17 apply equally to these claims. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken together with those of claim 17, define methods not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another. Applicant notes that while Axel is also used in making a rejection of dependent claim 20, this reference also fails to teach the added language of independent claim 17.

Claim 22 recites a computer-readable medium comprising a credential provider module including instructions that, when executed by a local machine having a native operating system (OS), receive and translate a credential into a credential protocol so as to be compatible for authentication by an authentication component of the native OS against a credential database for logging a user identified by the credential on with the native OS to access the local machine when the authentication is successful, wherein:

- the translated credential is received via a credential provider Application Programming Interface (API) of the authentication component of the native OS;

- the credential provider API of the authentication component of the native OS is compatible for receiving each of a plurality of said credentials from a corresponding plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules; and
- each said different coexisting credential provider module can:
    - receive a respective different type of said credential from a respective input device, each respective input device capable of coupling to the local machine and enabling the user to log on with the native OS to access the local machine; and
    - translate each said different type of said credential into the credential protocol so as to be compatible for authentication by the authentication component of the native OS against the credential database.

In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office uses reasoning similar to that used in regards to claim 9. Therefore, for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in regards to claim 9, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Botz and Kao fail teach or suggest independent claim 22. For instance, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination at least fails to teach or suggest the added elements of this claim. During the afore-mentioned interview, Applicant understood the Office to tentatively agree, although the Office also indicated that further analysis of the references and an updated search would be necessary. Applicant once again thanks the Office for its insight.

For at least these reasons, this claim stands allowable.

Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and, by virtue of this dependency, the above comments directed to claim 22 apply equally to these claims. Moreover, these claims recite features that, when taken together with those of claim 22, define methods not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the references of record, either singly or in combination with one another. Applicant notes that while Axel is also used in making a rejection of dependent claim 23, this reference also fails to teach the added language of independent claim 22.

NEW CLAIM

Applicant has added new claim 33, which recites subject matter identical to that previously found in dependent claim 10 (and its corresponding independent claim, claim 9).

Claim 33 recites a method comprising (emphasis added):

- receiving a credential from a user at an input device in communication with a local machine having an OS, the local machine capable of being in communication with a plurality of different input devices each configured to enable the user to log on with the OS to access the local machine;
- translating the credential with one of a plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules for translating respectively different types of credentials into a common credential protocol, the plurality of different coexisting credential provider modules also enabling the user to log on with the OS to access the local machine with each corresponding different input device that is in communication with local machine;
- using a component of the OS to authenticate the translated credential having the common credential protocol against a credential database; and
- logging the user on with the OS to access the local machine when the authentication is successful, ***wherein the logging of the user on further comprises logging the user on to the local machine after a plurality of said credentials have been received, translated by a respective said different coexisting credential provider module, and authenticated successfully***.

In making out a rejection of claims 9 and 10 (the claims to which new claim 33 corresponds), the Office stated that these claims were obvious over the combination of Botz and Kao. In regards to claim 10, whose subject matter is emphasized directly above, the Office stated the following:

> Regarding Claim 10, the combination of Botz in view of Kao discloses a method, wherein the logging of the user on further comprises logging the user on to the local machine after a plurality of said credentials have been received, translated by a respective said different coexisting credential provider module, and authenticated successfully (Page 7, [0094], lines 6 – 10, Botz[5]).

[5] Wherein the step of using the policy information, including trust policy and initial authentication, to signing the user on (Page 7, [0094], lines 1 – 6, Botz) corresponds to the step of logging the user claimed. In addition, Botz discloses the use of a plurality of credentials as claimed (Page 7, [0101], lines 3 – 14, Botz).

Office Action of 07/11/2007, p. 6.

Applicant respectfully but strongly disagrees with the Office's rejection of this subject matter. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office fails to show how the references of record teach or suggest "logging the user on to the local machine *after* ***a plurality of said credentials*** *have been received, translated by a respective said different coexisting credential provider module, and authenticated successfully*", as recited in Applicant's claim 33.

For support, Applicant reproduces the cited portions of Botz and explains why these cited portions fail to teach or suggest this element. The first cited passage of Botz is reproduced below.

> **[0094]** Next, the AIT domain controller accesses policy information about both the request server and the initial authentication server. In one embodiment, the trust policy for the user, the request server, the initial authentication server and trust domain is assumed to be available to the controller. In this embodiment, the domain controller uses the trust policy to determine whether the user sign-on or transaction request is to be considered authenticated or not, and an appropriate return code is generated based on this consideration.

Botz, paragraph [0094].

Applicant respectfully submits that this paragraph of Botz entirely fails to relate to receiving, translating, and successfully authentication "a *plurality* of credentials". As evidenced by the Office's footnote reproduced above, however, it appears that the Office agrees. That is, in the footnote, the Office states that "Botz discloses the use of a plurality of credentials as claimed (Page 7, [0101], lines 3-

14, Botz)." *Office Action of 07/11/2007*, p. 6. Applicant therefore reproduces this second cited passage, as well as the passage introducing the cited passage, below:

> **[0098]** In this example, the identity translation token **800** contains the following information:
>
> > **[0101]** A method of authentication used **806**. Examples of specific authentication methods include: Kerberos, including Kerberos Realm name; Digital Certificate, including Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) trust chain; an operating system identification and authentication service, e.g., IBM's z/OS system's Resource Access Control Facility (RACF) User-ID and Password or RACF including RACF Realm Name and how the user was authenticated to RACF, e.g., by PKI, Kerberos, or basic authentication using user id and password or PassTicket; and LDAP, including LDAP server name and an authentication method accepted by LDAP (list similar to RACF list).

Botz, paragraph [0101].

As paragraph [0098] makes clear, cited paragraph [0101] describes information that may be contained with a translation token of Botz. As paragraph [0101] states, this information may include *a method of authentication used to sign on to a Botz server.* Paragraph [0101] then lists exemplary methods of authentication may have been used (Kerberos, Digital Certificate, etc.). This paragraph, however, entirely fails to discuss signing on with use of a *plurality* of credentials. Instead, the cited passage at most implies an identification of the *single* method of authentication used. In fact, Fig. 8A of Botz, which corresponds to the discussion of paragraphs [0098] and [0101], further corroborates this point and is reproduced below.

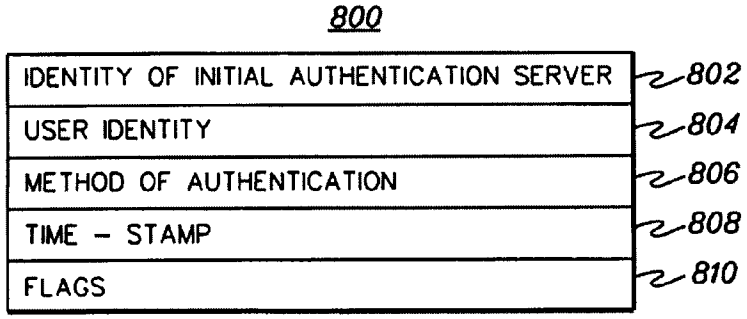


fig. 8A

Botz, Fig. 8A.

As this figure illustrates, token 800 includes an identification 806 of ***a*** (i.e., singular) method of authentication used. Again, Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere has Botz been shown to teach or suggest the use of a plurality of authentication methods in order to allow a user to sign on to a Botz server. Instead, Botz at most has been shown to teach the use of a single authentication method, which directly teaches away from the use of multiple such methods. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office fails to show how the cited references teach or suggest "logging the user on to the local machine *after* ***a plurality of said credentials*** *have been received, translated by a respective said different coexisting credential provider module, and authenticated successfully*", as recited in Applicant's claim 33. Again, this claim element is simply missing from the Office's citations.

For at least this reason, this claim stands allowable.

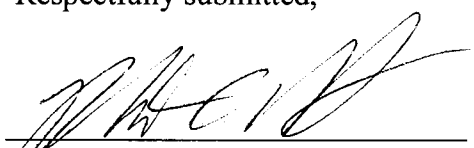
Additionally, and as note above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 33 recites the subject matter previously recited in claim 10 (and its base claim).

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that any subsequent Action issued by the Office (other than a Notice of Allowance) should remain Non-Final.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith. If the Office's next anticipated action is to be anything other than issuance of a Notice of Allowability, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone call for the purpose of scheduling an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2007/11/12 By: 

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